

CLAIMS

1. An animal feed composition comprising more than 240 microgram of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.
- 5 2. A feed composition according to claim 1 comprising up to 40 g of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.
3. A feed composition according to claims 1 or 2 comprising between 100 and 1000 mg of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram
- 10 4. A feed composition according to claims 1 to 3 additionally comprising an enzyme capable of converting the derivative into free IAA.
5. A feed composition according to claims 1 to 4 wherein the derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxy-IAA, 4-methoxy-IAA, 5-hydroxy-IAA, 5-methoxy-IAA, 6-hydroxy-IAA, 6-methoxy-IAA, 7-hydroxy-IAA and 7-methoxy-IAA.
- 15 6. A feed composition according to claim 5 wherein the aromatic ring is substituted on one or more of the 4, 5, 6 and 7 position with methyl, amino, nitro, fluoride, chloride, bromide or iodide.
7. A feed composition according to claims 1 to 4 wherein the derivative can be converted into free IAA in more than 3 steps, preferably in 3, more preferably in 2 and most preferably in 1 step.
- 20 8. A feed composition according to claims 1 to 7 in the form of pellets, meal, grains, extruded or expanded grains, tablets, powder or bolus forms.
9. A feed composition according to claims 1 to 8 with a composition that is approved by a governmental institution.
- 25 10. A method for increasing the growth rate and/or improving the feed efficiency and/or the feed conversion rate and/or the immunity of a non-human animal, the method comprising administering to said animal an effective amount of a composition according to claims 1 - 9.
- 30 11. Use of free IAA or a derivative thereof for the preparation of a therapeutical composition for stimulating growth and/or stimulating the immune system in

animals in need of such a treatment.

12. Use according to claim 11 wherein the free IAA or a derivative thereof is capable of increasing the serum level of insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1).

13. Use according to claims 11 or 12 wherein the animal has a lowered level of IGF-1.

14. Use according to claims 11 – 13 wherein the animals have a growth deficit and/or a weakened immune system.

15. Method for the preparation of an animal feed composition, said method comprising admixing a composition according to claims 1 - 9 with one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) in order to obtain an animal feed composition according to claims 1 - 9.

16. Method for the preparation of an animal feed composition, said method comprising the step of supplementing an animal feed with free IAA or a derivative thereof in order to obtain an animal feed composition according to claims 1 - 9.

17. Method for raising non-human animals comprising

a) Mixing an effective dose of free IAA or a derivative thereof with a feed material suitable for a particular animal species

b) Feeding said species with the feed material